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**75th**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**OF**  
**TRINITY**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**SAXTON, PENNSYLVANIA**







75th  
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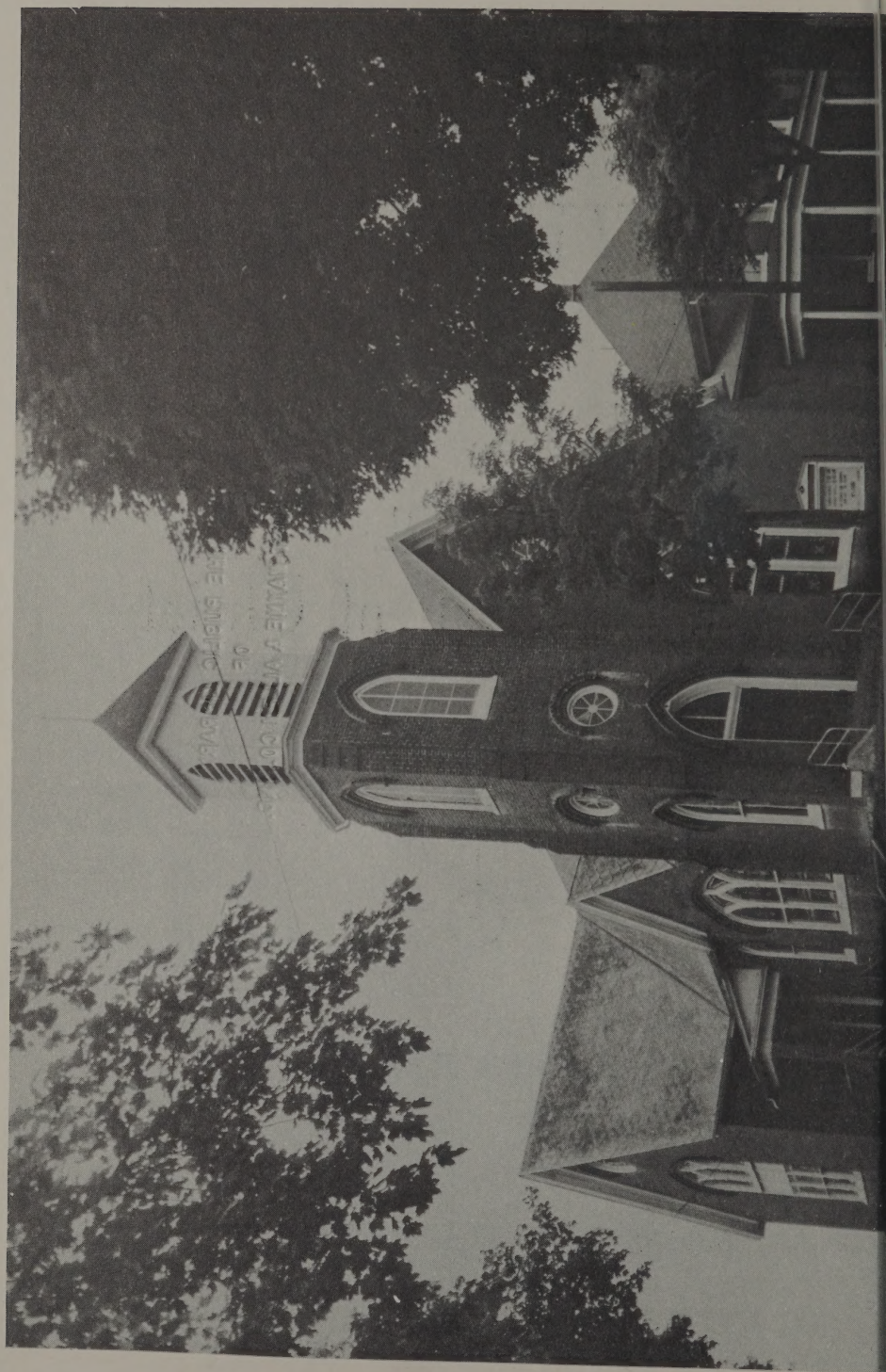
Saxton, Pa.

1887-1962

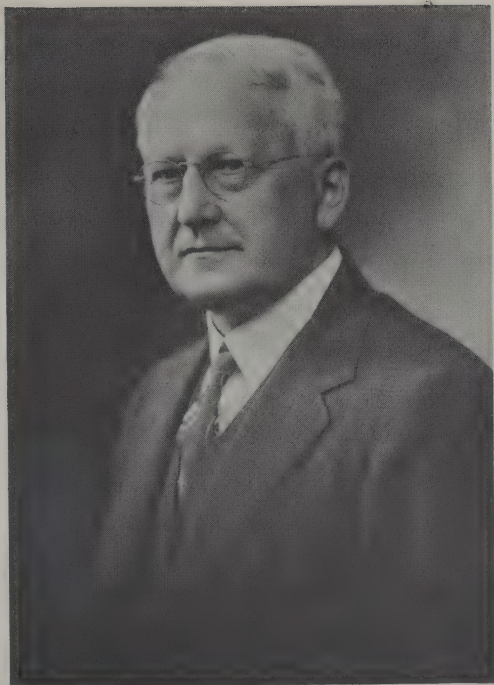
OCTOBER 7-14, 1962

REVEREND HOMER F. YEARICK, Pastor  
1000 CHURCH STREET  
SAXTON, PENNA.

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**T**O THE REV. ARTHUR C. THOMPSON, Doctor of Divinity, this booklet is lovingly and respectfully dedicated. To him we owe unlimited gratitude for much of the Church's history found herein, which he compiled while spending the first few years of his retirement in Saxton. He has since moved to California where he now lives at 687 Leyden Lane, Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California, a center for retired ministers and missionaries. He is 85.

Dr. Thompson has endeared himself to three generations at St. Luke's Church, St. John's, Hopewell, and here at Trinity, Saxton. Members of his first Pastorate which began in 1899 have fond recollections of him as their Minister and were thrilled by his return in 1950 as were those of more recent membership.

During the 47 year interim between his first and last Pastorates (both of which were here at Trinity) he served Churches in Norristown, Shippensburg and Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. Well-known and highly respected throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania, his wise counsel was often sought on Church matters throughout a long and useful life.

Dr. Thompson's gracious and kindly manner won for him the name "Friend"! Young and old alike think of him as such with love and gratitude in being able to say — "He was my Pastor".



Imbedded in the foundation beside the entrance to the Sanctuary of Trinity United Church of Christ in Saxton is the cornerstone of Old St. Luke's Reformed Church which stood for more than 60 years in Woodcock Valley. This is most appropriate, for in every way St. Luke's was the beginning of Trinity Church.

Reconstructed here is a brief history of these two Churches, references to some of the people who comprised the congregations and a brief report of the Pastors who served them.



St. Luke's Church



St. Luke's Cemetery

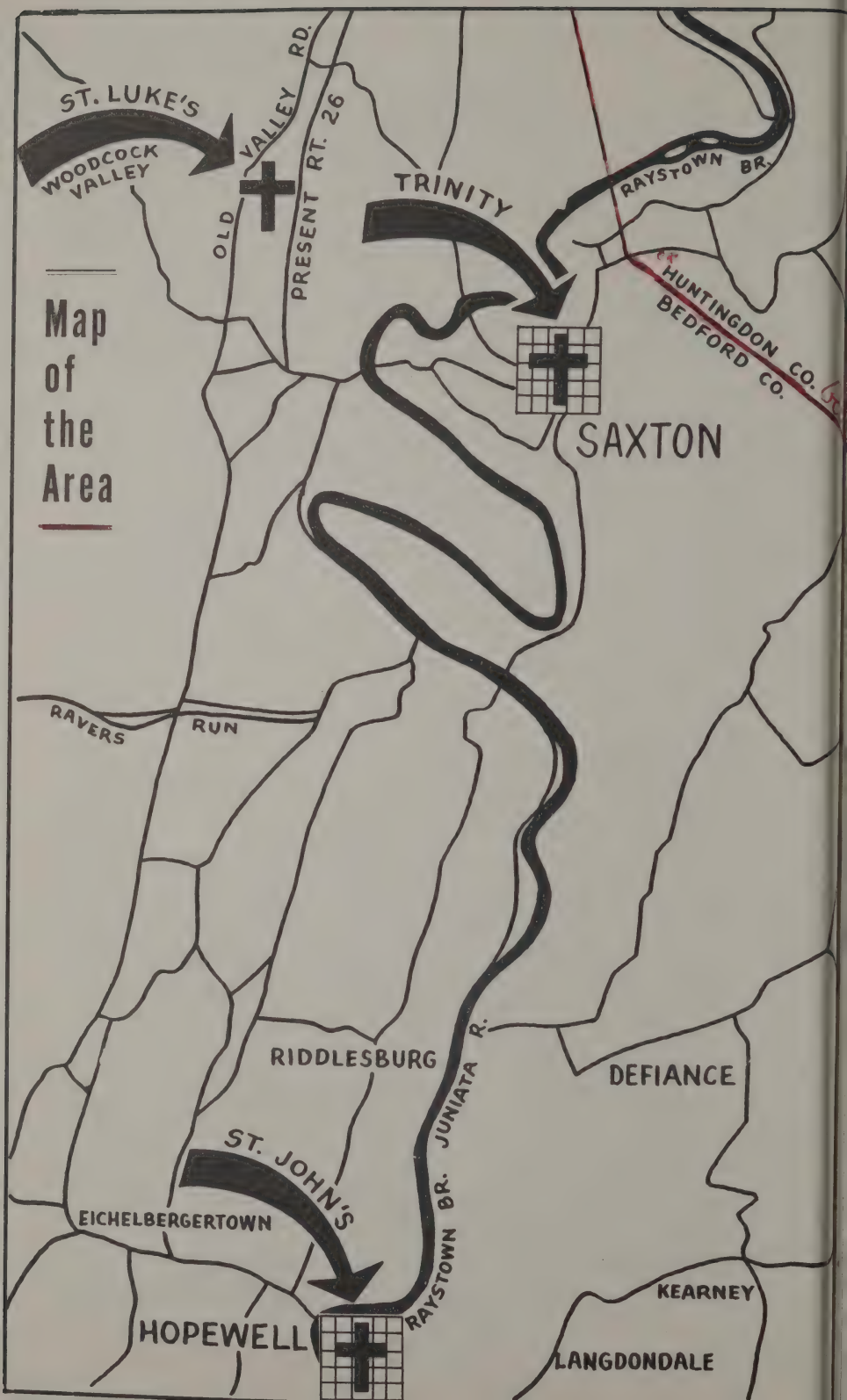


The following list of the dead in St. Luke's Cemetery made in 1897.

Abbott, Levi	Dickerson, Effie	Fluke, Catherine
Abbot, Mary	Dickerson,	Fluke, John
Abbot, Mary	Elder, Elsie	Fluke, John
Abbot, William	Elder, Edgar	Fluke, William
Abbot, Margaret	Elder, William	Fluke,
Breneman, B.	Elder, Issaac	Giboney, George
Brumbaugh, Hannah	Elder, Daniel	Giboney, A. M.
Brumbaugh, E.	Elder, Sarah	Gibony, James
Broad,	Eicher, William	Gibony, James
Broad,	Eicher, John	Gibony, Raimon
Berkstresser, S.	Eicher, Samuel	Gibony, Frank
Berkstresser, H.	Eicher, Harry	Gibony, David
Berkstresser, L.	Eicher, John	Gibony, Infant
Berkstresser, D.	Eicher, Jacob	Howell,
Berkstresser, E.	Eicher, David	Harvey, Samuel
Berkstresser, S.	Entrekin, William	Harvey, Susan
Berkstresser, G.	Entrekin, William	Harvey, Job
Berkstresser, C.	Entrekin, Annie	Harvey, Elizabeth
Berkstresser, M.	Entrekin, Alfred	Harvey, Margaret
Brown,	Foreman, Emma	Harvey, Infant
Bryant, Lou	Foreman, Annie	Harvey, Tom
Cypher, Catherine	Foreman, Daniel	Harnish, Isora
Cypher, Barbara	Foreman,	Jenkins, E. M.
Cypher, Elizabeth	Fisher, Henry	Kelley, John
Cypher, Alfred	Fisher, Christina	Kelley, Tom
Cypher, Charlotte	Fisher,	Kelley, Susan
Cypher, Retta	Foster, Adeline	Kelley, Louey
Cypher, Thomas	Foster, John	Kensinger, Harry
Cypher, David	Foster,	Kensinger, Isaac
Cypher, Matilda	Fluke, Lewis	Kensinger, Kate
Crouse,	Fluke, S. F.	Kensinger, Abram
Cramer, Mary	Fluke, William	Kensinger, Washington
Cramer, 1806	Fluke, Casper	Kensinger, William
Danty, James	Fluke, Margaret	Little, Maria

Little, William	Ray, Washington	Snider, David
Little, Mary	Rell, Mary, 1829	Snider, Elizabeth
Little, Jimmy	Ritchey, Rachel	Snider, James
Little, Edgar	Stoler, George	Syling,
Little, David	Stoler, Maria	Showalter,
Long, Daniel	Stoler, Jacob	Shoup, Rebecca
Long, Rachel	Stoler, Elizabeth	Shoup, Samuel
Long, Joseph	Stoler, Martin	Shoup, Sarah A.
Loose, Nancy	Stoler, Annie	Shoup, Anna B.
Livingston, J. K.	Stoler, David	Shoup, Martha
Livingston, Infant	Stoler, Fred	Soyster, David
Miller, Jacob	Stoler, Infant	Soyster, William
Miller, Caroline	Stoler, Infant	Soyster, Rebecca
Maugle, Margaret	Stoler, Elvina	Sarvice, Captain
Maugle, Jacob	Stoler, Eliza	Shirley, James
Maugle, Infant	Stoler, John	Troutman, Infant
McClain,	Stoler, James	Waltz, Infant
McGregor,	Stoler, Frederick	Waltz, L. B.
Puderbaugh, David	Stoler, Edith	Wyant, J. E.
Puderbaugh, Elizabeth	Steele, David	Wyant,
Rhodes, David	Steele, George	Wyant,
Rhodes, George	Steele, Margaret	Wyant,
Rhodes, Maggie	Steele, G. W.	Wyant, Hannah
Rhodes, Lydia	Steele, Fannie	White, Florence
Rhodes, George	Steele, Infant	White, Sofia
Rhodes, Annie	Steele, Infant	White, Charles
Rhodes, Maggie	Shetrem, Mary	White, James
Rhodes, George	Shetrem, Samuel	White, Calvin
Rhodes, Elizabeth	Shetrem,	White, John
Rhodes, Elizabeth	Shaw,	Wise, James
Rhodes, Thomas	Snider, Susan	Wise, Mr.
Roth,	Snider, Calvin	Wills, Lamison
Roth,	Snider, Jacob	Wills, Mr.
Ross, Elizabeth	Snider, William	Zimmerman, Henry
Ross, Charles	Snider, Jacob	Zimmerman, Mary
Ray, Robert	Snider, David	Zook, Barbara

Map  
of  
the  
Area





# A THREE POINT CHARGE



*St. Luke's in the Valley*

1844 - 1904

(UNITED WITH TRINITY, SAXTON - 1904)



*Trinity, Saxton*

1887 - Present



*St. John's, Hopewell*

1901 - Present

## SOME OF THE EARLY FAMILIES

Among the first settlers in Woodcock Valley was Sebastian *Shoup*, who located where Saxton now is prior to the Revolutionary War. He built a fort for refugees during the period of Indian hostilities but when the danger became too alarming he moved his family away until after the war.

After the Revolutionary War, Daniel *Cypher*, who had fought in the War, settled in the Saxton area. His daughter, Polly, was the first person whose body was buried in St. Luke's Cemetery.

The wooded hills, rushing streams and rough terrain of Woodcock Valley made this territory a favorite hunting ground of the Shawnee and Delaware Indians. About 1750 adventurous hunters and trappers among the white settlers followed the Indian trails into the area. One of the earliest trading posts established for bartering with the Indians was Frankstown, in the Morrison Cove area and Hartslog's Block House in Woodcock Valley. Later, during the French and Indian War, forts were erected at Juniata Crossing, Burnt Cabins, Fort Loudon, Fort Bedford and McAlevey's Fort.

Few persons had settled in Morrison's Cove or Woodcock Valley prior to Penn's purchase of lands comprising the future State of Pennsylvania from the Indians in 1754. During the next 25 years, quite a number of homes were established in Woodcock Valley, but not without resistance from the Indians. On July 16th, 1780, there occurred the well-known massacre of Captain Phillip's Rangers near Fisher's Summit. Having taken refuge in Hartslog's Block House for the night, the Rangers were attacked in the early morning by an overwhelming number of savages among whom were two white men painted as Indians. When the roof of the Block House was set afire by flame-tipped arrows, the Rangers were forced to surrender, having been promised that by so doing their lives would be spared. This proved to be a false promise, however, for at the foot of Tussey Mountain the Indians fell upon them, tied them to trees and killed them with arrows and tomahawks. The place of their death has been marked by an appropriate monument erected in 1926 on a spot pointed out to Samuel B. Stoler when he was a boy. Skeletons, believed to be those of the Rangers, were found near this spot during an excavation operation in 1933 and these were reburied that same year in a bronze vault provided by Funeral Director, Robert E. Huff of Saxton. The Saxton Post of the American Legion supervised the burial, Dr. A. C. Thompson had the Committal Service. The Rev. Loy Gobrecht offered prayer and Samuel B. Stoler unveiled the monument.

Among the earliest families related to St. Luke's Church and later to Trinity was that of Martin *Stoler* who arrived in America from

Switzerland in 1767. He chose a location for his farm along the sunny side of Tussey Mountain. Family records show that David Stoler was a son of Martin Stoler and his wife, Mary Ann. David Stoler married Anna Cypher. They became the parents of Mary Ann, who became the wife of George Steele; of Elizabeth who became the wife of George Rhodes and of Daniel Stoler and Jacob Stoler.

Co-pioneers with the *Stolers* were members of the family of Johann *Fluke*, who came to America from Germany, and also settled on a farm, later to be known as the Fluke Farm, at the foot of Tussey Mountain. A son, Casper Fluke, who fought in the Revolutionary War, and his family were faithful members of St. Luke's Church. Later, Mrs. George Fluke (Elizabeth) and daughters Annie, Gertrude and Carrie were life long members of Trinity.

Another pioneer family closely related to St. Luke's Church was that of George *Steele* who came to America along with three brothers, from Holland. George Steele had a son Thomas. Solomon Steele was the father of Levi Steele whose family also belonged to St. Luke's. Thomas Steele was the father of Samuel, John, Margaret and Minnie Steele. Margaret became a well-known author. The name of Steele appears frequently in the history of both St. Luke's and Trinity Churches.

Another name found often among the early pioneers is that of *Rhodes*. George Rhodes, son of Jacob and Margaret Rhodes, was brought by his parents to Liberty Township, Bedford County in 1813. They located on the farm recently bought by the Broad Top Chamber of Commerce (1961) on which it is planned to erect a building for the purpose of attracting a new industry to Saxton. Jacob Rhodes was born in 1749 and before coming to Woodcock Valley had served with distinction in the Revolutionary War. His son, George Rhodes, married Elizabeth Stoler, daughter of David Stoler. George settled on the homestead where he remained until 1854. He then purchased the farm known as the Kieth Farm upon which he erected a flour mill, known as Rhodes' Mill. His descendents are Jacob Rhodes (who married Elizabeth Bridenstine); Daniel Rhodes (who married Ella Rowser) and Thomas Rhodes (who married Anna Rowser — a sister of Ella Rowser — both of whom came from Iowa). Among the daughters of George Rhodes, Mary Ann was married to Isaac K. Little; Catherine to Silas Little; and Charlotte became the wife of Thomas W. White.

The name of *Little* appears frequently in the history of the two Churches. Ancestors of Capt. I. K. Little and Silas Little came northward from Maryland in 1803 and settled in the area now known as Hopewell.

In 1863 Isaac K. Little enlisted in the Union Army, 5th District of Columbia, Washington, D. C., in which he became Captain of Company F. After the Civil War, from 1867-1875, he was in charge of construction for the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad. Later he engaged in milling. His brother, Silas, had also enlisted in the Union Army. Their father was William Little who married Mary Fluke. Miss Emma Little and Miss Mary Little (now living in Saxton — (1962) — 87 years young!) have represented these families faithfully in the work of both Churches for many years.

Another of the earliest Reformed Church families in this area was that of Tobias *Snyder*, who was born in Hopewell Township. He married Susan Steele, a daughter of George F. Steele.

Another well-known Reformed Church family in the area was that of J. W. *Huff*, whose father, Benjamin Huff, lived in the region of what is now known as Cherrytown in Woodcock Valley. J. W. Huff was for many years a leader of the Trinity Church Choir. He became a prominent Judge of Bedford County and once used his influence to keep Saxton "dry". His sons and daughters have made outstanding contributions in the field of music and administration at both Churches. Robert Huff, well-known former Saxton Funeral Director is still prominent in business and community affairs and was for many years Sunday School Superintendent at Trinity.

The family of Howard *Williams*, who was for many years a foreman in the H. B. and T. Railroad shops has been deeply interested across the years in the work of Trinity Church for more than a generation, as records of the Choir and Consistory show.

The Daniel *Stoler* family has furnished a large number of members for Trinity Church. Daniel Stoler was the son of David and Anna (Cypher) Stoler, born September 18, 1811, and was married to Maria McDonald on April 5th, 1838. The S. B. and D. M. General Store in Saxton became the largest mercantile business in Bedford County in earlier days. Among the descendants of Daniel Stoler was Jacob Stoler who married Margaret Reed. John Enyeart was a clerk in the Stoler Store for many years and he married Mary Elizabeth Stoler. Their children Estella, Jane and Jack Enyeart all sang in Trinity Choir. Lydia Stoler married Jerry Livingstone. Anna Stoler was married to William Enyeart (they were the parents of George Enyeart, Alice and Maria). George Stoler died through a hunting accident. Matilda and Sarah lived to a ripe old age — faithful and life-long members of Trinity.



## PASTORS WHO SERVED THE SAXTON-HOPEWELL CHARGE

NOTE: *St. Luke's Congregation Organized June 22, 1844*

<i>Pastors</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Churches</i>
Rev. Frederick A. Rupley	1844-1852	St. Luke's
Rev. Samuel Phillips	1853-1855	St. Luke's
Rev. Jeremiah Keller	1855-1857	St. Luke's
Rev. Jacob Hassler	1858-1863	St. Luke's
Rev. A. C. Whitmer	1863-1868	St. Luke's
Rev. John H. Sykes	1868-1877	St. Luke's
Rev. J. David Miller	1878-1883	St. Luke's

NOTE: *Trinity, Saxton, organized November 1887*

Rev. Isaac N. Peightel	1883-1888	St. Luke's, Trinity
Rev. Robert O'Boyle	1888-1891	St. Luke's, Trinity
Rev. Titus C. Strock	1892-1895	St. Luke's, Trinity

*Trinity and St. Luke's became a charge in 1895*

Rev. Wm. H. Landis	1895-1899	St. Lukes, Trinity
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NOTE: *St. John's, Hopewell, organized September 4, 1901*

Rev. Arthur C. Thompson	1899-1903	St. Lukes, Trinity St. John's
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NOTE: *St. Luke's congregation officially united with Trinity, Saxton, July 16, 1904. Last service held in St. Luke's on September 15, 1905.*

Rev. Charles F. Althouse	1904-1907	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Paul B. Rupp	1908-1911	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Arthur C. Ohl	1911-1914	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. J. F. Reimers	1915-1916	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. George A. Baer	1916-1921	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Lawrence C. T. Miller	1921-1925	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. L. C. Gobrecht	1925-1929	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Norman S. Greenawalt	1929-1944	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Arthur C. Thompson	1945-1950	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Thomas M. Burns	1950-1952	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Amos Seldomridge	1952-1955	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. LaMar Bender	1956-1959	Trinity, St. John's
Rev. Homer F. Yearick	1960-19	Trinity, St. John's

## ANNIVERSARIES OBSERVED

25th - October, 1912.....	Rev. Arthur C. Ohl, <i>Pastor</i>
50th - October, 1937.....	Rev. Norman S. Greenawalt, <i>Pastor</i>
60th - October, 1947.....	Rev. Arthur C. Thompson, <i>Pastor</i>
75th - October, 1962.....	Rev. Homer F. Yearick, <i>Pastor</i>



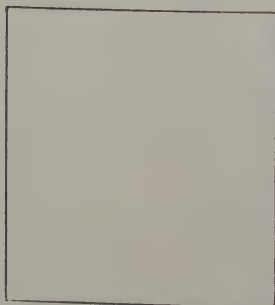
**REV. FREDERICK A. RUPLEY**  
1844-1852

St. Luke's Reformed Church was organized June 22, 1844 with 16 charter members. Henry Shoup and David Stoler were elected the first elders of the congregation, and George F. Steele and Abraham Stoler were chosen the first deacons. Erection of the first Church building, St. Luke's Old Stone Church, is credited to the unwavering devotion and energy of deacon George F. Steele, who came to this country from Holland. The first Church building was dedicated the day following organization of the congregation, on Sunday, June 23, 1844. The Rev. Frederick A. Rupley, a young Licentiate of Mercersburg Classis, preached the dedication sermon. Elder David Stoler had given the land for both the cemetery and the Church. The

Church building was appropriately placed beside the plot of ground which the people of the Valley had consecrated by love and tears as the last resting place of the loved ones who shared the burdens and toils and the hopes and sorrows of pioneer life. Prior to erection of the Old Stone Church, services had been conducted in the schoolhouse near the Stoler homestead. The Rev. James McIlhenny, a Presbyterian Minister, held services monthly; and the Rev. Christian Weinbrenner of Martinsburg, a Reformed Church Minister, preached occasionally.

During the year of 1844 the Greenfield congregation was taken from the Bedford Charge, and with our Church at Martinsburg, plus the new congregation of St. Luke's, a new Charge was formed called the Martinsburg Charge.

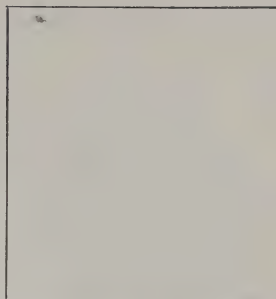
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**REV. SAMUEL PHILLIPS**  
January 1853-March 1855

Very little appears in the report of this short pastorate of just over two years. Rev. Phillips began at a salary of \$350.00 which was raised in 1854 to \$400.00 annually. The call to Rev. Phillips was signed on behalf of St. Luke's by Elders George F. Steele and David Steele and by Deacons John Weiss, Jr., and Jacob Stoler.

Again no records have been found of this Pastorate, which, like the one preceding it, was of just over two years' duration.



**REV. JEREMIAH KELLER**  
1855-1857

\* \* \*

The only word recorded of this early Pastorate of five years is that St. Luke's congregation grew significantly in membership during that time.



**REV. JACOB HASSLER**  
August 1858-August 1863

\* \* \*

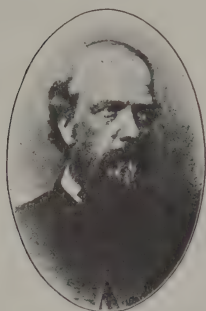
The records during this five year Pastorate indicate continued growth of the congregation in spite of the disrupting influences of the Civil War. However, it is added that — “casualties of that conflict required Memorial Flags in such numbers that St. Luke's cemetery acquired the appearance on Memorial Day of serried ranks of a company of patriotic soldiers marching home from victory”.

The Rev. A. C. Whitmer in later years became secretary of the Home Mission Board of the denomination and it was he who inaugurated the Building Fund Plan for helping new Churches.



**REV. A. C. WHITMER**  
November 1863-July 1868

During this Pastorate, in 1872, St. Luke's Old Stone Church, having served the congregation for 28 years, was torn down and replaced by a larger frame structure erected on the same site.



REV. JOHN H. SYKES  
1868-1877

Communicant membership had now grown to 126.

On November 26, 1873, St. Luke's was united with Woodcock Valley Charge by action of Mercersburg Classis. A short time earlier the Rev. Theobald Fouse, who had served the Woodcock Valley Charge for over a third of a century (1840-1872) retired and Rev. Sykes was called from the Martinsburg Charge to replace him, in December, 1873. Thus both St. Luke's Church and the Pastor of the Martinsburg Charge were now transferred to the Woodcock Valley Charge — St. Luke's retaining its same Pastor in the transfer. Rev. Sykes continued to serve as Pastor of St. Luke's until September 1877, when at a special meeting of Mercersburg Classis, St. Luke's was reunited with the Martinsburg Charge.

\* \* \*

At this point Licentiate J. David Miller was invited to become Pastor of the Martinsburg Charge and preached a trial sermon on the last Sunday of December in 1877. On February 22, 1878, he was ordained and installed as Pastor of this reconstructed Charge in St. John's Church in Martinsburg. Elder David M. Stoler and Deacon Isaac K. Little were present, representing St. Luke's. This arrangement was continued until the meeting for the organization of Juniata Classis on Tuesday, May 22, 1883. At that time the Clover Creek congregation was attached to the Martinsburg Charge, and St. Luke's was detached and made a part of the Yellow Creek Charge.



REV. J. DAVID MILLER  
February 1878-July 1883



Now the Pastor of the Yellow Creek Charge, Rev. I. N. Peightel, became Pastor of St. Luke's congregation. It was here, during Rev. Peightel's Pastorate, that Trinity Reformed Church in Saxton was organized — in November 1887, with 45 charter members.

An industrial center had been forming on the eastern side of the valley as a result of the development of coal mines on Broad Top Mountain. First came mercantile establishments in Stonerstown, but after the Huntingdon and Broad Top railroad built its station at Saxton in 1885 and 1886, this became the more prosperous and busier community. Manufacturing enterprises established here included the Powelton Furnaces where 105 coke ovens poured out flame and smoke by day and by night as men turned coal from the Broad Top mines into blazing, steaming coke.



REV. I. N. PEIGHTEL  
July 1883-August 1888

The HBT Repair and Car Shops employed scores of men and soon 3 hotels opened plus seven mercantile shops and stores of various kinds. Trains were long, heavy and frequent. In these early days there were two physicians in Saxton — one of whom was Dr. M. B. Breneman, later a member of Trinity Church. There was one newspaper and two Churches, the Presbyterian and the Methodist.

Some of the older families of the Valley now joined with newcomers to the area in a gradual development of the town of Saxton. Families belonging to St. Luke's in the Valley who had moved to Saxton and its environs, began attending other Churches and Sunday Schools here. As early as 1880 plans were advanced for erecting a Reformed Church in town but these were abandoned.

Finally, in 1885, Rev. I. N. Peightel (whose memorial window is now in the rear of Trinity's Sanctuary) then Pastor of St. Luke's (which was now a part of the Yellow Creek Charge), petitioned Juniata Classis to establish a new Reformed Church in Saxton. Classis granted this petition and two years later in November 1887, Trinity Congregation was organized with 45 charter members. Rev. Peightel wrote in his report to Juniata Classis that "many of the most substantial citizens of the town, socially and financially are among our members. We began under very favorable circumstances and the good will of the town is strongly in our favor. The great difficulty, however, is that the Pastor resides 13 miles away and this militates against the progress which we have every reason to believe would reward the labors of a Pastor living in the midst of the Congregation".

A Sunday School was immediately organized and within a few months reported an attendance of 150. Frequently, it is reported, every seat was occupied at services and sometimes there was not even standing room!

Rev. Peightel had reported to the annual meeting of Classis held in the Abbey Church of Huntingdon on May 19, 1887, (Rev. Peightel was then President of Classis) that a new Church building to serve the Reformed congregation in Saxton was ready for dedication.

The committee who had been appointed by Rev. Peightel to secure funds and arrange for the building of the Church was composed of I. K. Little, Dr. M. B. Breneman, Daniel W. Rhodes, Samuel B. Stoler and George Fluke. The lot on which the Church now stands had been purchased sometime before by I. K. Little from Levi Putt for the sum of \$200.00. The cornerstone was laid September 25, 1886. At this occasion the sermon was preached by Rev. Ellis N. Cremer, then Pastor of the Reformed Church in Bedford.

Trinity Church was dedicated July 17, 1887. The original building was of brick, 36 feet wide and 60 feet long, Gothic style, with stained glass windows, Bailey reflectors and with a steeple on the corner in which was housed a large, sweet toned bell.

The seating arrangement was at right angles to what it is today and the floor was level. A wide center aisle extended from the Church Street entrance to the chancel in front which was located where the large sliding doors are now between the Sunday School rooms and the Sanctuary. Narrow aisles ran along the outside walls, one leading to a choir loft and the other to the Primary Department of the Sunday School which was curtained off for the lesson period. The aisles, Chancel, Choir loft, small Sunday School class area and the space between the front pews and the Altar rails were covered with deep red carpet.

The auditorium was heated by a huge coal furnace in the basement that furnished a tremendous volume of hot air through a large single register in the floor of the center aisle.

Before electricity was available in Saxton, a large circular brass chandelier hung by chains from the center of the high vaulted walnut paneled ceiling and on the rim of the chandelier, wagon wheel in size, were placed many kerosene lamps with clear glass globes. Iron bracket lamps that hung on the walls furnished light for the Chancel area.

The pews were stained a dark brown, as was the four foot high wainscoting along the outside walls which were painted a deep ivory. This harmonized well with the natural walnut finish of the Chancel appointments -- the Pulpit, Chancel chairs, the Communion table and the Organ console. An air of calm and solemn dignity was manifested throughout in the stateliness and simple beauty of the old Sanctuary.

Dark stained glass windows, popular at that time, graced the walls. The more colorful windows seen in the Sanctuary today are all memorial windows and replaced the original ones when the Church was remodeled in 1908. However, the original windows were placed in the new Sunday School part built that year and can be seen in several of the classrooms.

The bread and wine of the Holy Communion were administered from a large silver plate and a single silver chalice. A tall, silver pitcher was used to refill the cup and for baptism, a silver baptismal bowl was used. These have been refinished and are on display in a memorial cabinet in the Sanctuary — preserved and cherished in memory of loved ones who used them in days gone by.

The cost of the original building was \$3820. Almost half of this amount (\$1620) was raised or subscribed for on the day of Dedication. The morning sermon was preached by Rev. C. U. Heilman of Alexandria who was “one of the most successful money-raisers of his day”. The evening sermon was preached by Rev. Cyrus W. Musser of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, who later became Editor of the Reformed Church Messenger.

Although the entire cost of the Church was covered by subscriptions on the Day of Dedication, several of Saxton’s chief industries closed down soon thereafter and some of the subscribers moved away. Others failed to meet their obligations and money had to be borrowed. The depression of the early nineties followed and it was not until 1902, fifteen years after it was built, that Trinity Church’s indebtedness was finally paid off, chiefly through the activities of the Mite Society.

The Mite Society was organized in June 1894 by Jacob Stoler. The purpose of the organization was a simple one — to help pay off the debt resting upon this new Church. It is the oldest Auxiliary in Trinity Church and has met regularly ever since its organization. Charter members were:

Mrs. Effie Dickinson .....	<i>First President</i>
Mrs. Mary Enyeart	
Mrs. Lucy Gibboney	
Mrs. Kate Little .....	<i>First Treasurer</i>
Miss Emma Little .....	<i>First Secretary</i>
Mrs. Mary Smith	
Mrs. Mame Stoler	
Mrs. Margaret Stoler	



Trinity, like St. Luke's, was now a part of the Yellow Creek Charge and served by a Minister living elsewhere than in Saxton. In one of his Classical reports, Rev. O'Boyle stated that "there is a lack of enthusiasm for catechization of youth on the part of parents and a negative attitude on the part of young people". However, the report speaks of attendance at services as "good". Ladies of the Church showed interest in the Missionary Society. The assessment from Classis was regularly paid in full. During this Pastorate the custom of paying the Preacher's salary monthly was inaugurated, and the envelope system for Church offerings was adopted.



REV. ROBERT O'BOYLE  
December 1888-April 1891

It was now that Trinity and St. Luke's first asked to be constituted a separate Charge. In a meeting on April 27, 1889, members of both Churches petitioned Classis to consider establishing a new Charge of these two Churches with a Pastor residing in Saxton. Classis turned down the request, apparently for fear that these two Churches alone could not support a Pastor. At that time the membership at Trinity had increased only 13, to a total of 58.

However, on March 7, 1892, Classis finally decided to detach St. Luke's and Trinity from the Yellow Creek Charge and unite them with the Reformed Church at McConnellstown to form a new Charge.

McConnellstown did not favor this arrangement, however, and would not join in calling a new Pastor. So Trinity and St. Luke's were without a Pastor for a little over a year. During this time the two Churches were supplied by a student for the Ministry, F. M. Line, who later served Churches at Juniata and Tyrone.

\* \* \*



REV. T. C. STROCK  
1892-1895

At the change of Pastors of the Woodcock Valley Charge — on June 8, 1892, Trinity, like St. Luke's before it and now again, was annexed to the Woodcock Valley Charge, along with Marklesburg, Russellville and Entriiken — forming a five point Charge.

Steady gains in membership during this Pastorate are reported for the whole Charge, Trinity's membership climbing to 80 by the close of this Pastorate in 1895.

A Christian Endeavor Society was organized by Rev. Strock and, as stated before, the Mite Society had been organized in 1894.

This same year (1894) was St. Luke's 50th anniversary and this was marked by appropriate services at which all surviving Pastors were present.

\* \* \*



1895 is a very important year in the history of Trinity and St. Luke's. Before this they had been annexed to this or that Charge — now these two Churches became a separate two-point Charge with their own Pastor.

At first the Charge received \$100.00 annual subsidy from Juniata Classis. Membership at Trinity had grown to 90; St. Luke's was now 75. During this Pastorate, the Sunday School at Trinity took a long step forward. Up to this time it had met in the afternoon. It was attended by many members of other Churches who had attended their own Church in the morning. While this brought large numbers to Trinity it did not bring stability. The time was changed to a morning hour to conform to the time of meeting of other Sunday Schools in town. This resulted at first in a smaller Sunday School, but the record states "it began to grow and kept on growing until it became the most efficient Sunday School in Saxton".



**REV. WILLIAM H. LANDIS**  
November 1895-May 1899

\* \* \*

Rev. Arthur Thompson, to whom this booklet is dedicated, began his Ministry at this time, preaching a trial sermon March 27th, 1899, while still a student in Ursinus School of Theology in Philadelphia. He was elected in May, after graduation, but Classis held up confirmation of Trinity and St. Luke's call to him to be their Pastor until they would assure Classis that the two Churches would raise \$375.00 annually for salary (if Classis would subsidize the two Churches \$100.00 per year). Orbisonia and Saltillo were added to the Charge with one-fourth of the Pastor's time to be devoted there providing these two Churches would also raise \$75.00 annually for Pastor's salary (with an additional \$50.00 subsidy annually from Classis) and provided Orbisonia and Saltillo would pay up on arrears of \$63.00 due a Rev. Greary who had supplied these two Churches during an extended vacancy.



**REV. ARTHUR C. THOMPSON**  
August 1899-1903

All these conditions were finally met, and on August 21, 1899, Rev. Thompson was installed here as Pastor.

There still was no Parsonage for a Reformed Church Minister in Saxton although a lot beside the Church had been reserved for that

purpose. So Rev. Thompson lived in the home of Mrs. George Fluke next to the Church. J. W. Huff offered the new Pastor free use of a horse and buggy for his first year.

Membership grew rapidly now at both Churches. When Trinity's debt was paid off in 1902, there was much rejoicing. Catechetical instruction received new emphasis and both junior and senior Catechetical classes were organized.

Sunday School at St. Luke's Church in the Valley continued to meet on Sunday afternoons, not in the Church but in Rhodes' School House nearby, and flourished for many years.

A fine Choir was organized and trained by J. W. Huff. The organist, Miss Amy P. Stoler, was assisted frequently by Miss Irvie Kay and James Kay who were skillful players of the trumpet.

Charter members of the Choir were: Mae Stoler, Florence Stoler, Ada Huff, Ethel White, Clarence Huff, George Huff, Mary Little, Estella Enyeart, Jane Enyeart, Stanley Enyeart and Alice Enyeart.

Here organization of St. John's, Hopewell, occurred during Rev. Thompson's Pastorate in 1901.

From the time Rev. Thompson accepted invitations to preach at Sunnyside School House in Hopewell, the response was so encouraging that leaders in the community urged that a Reformed Church be erected in this section. The Coal Company had given land for this purpose, and John Lowery, Levi Eichelberger and Benjamin C. Miller (father of Rev. L. C. T. Miller — now (1962) with the Stewardship Council — United Church of Christ) urged that it be built on this site. On May 15, 1901, members of the Charge and persons desiring to become members of the Hopewell Church petitioned Classis to form a congregation. This was granted and a congregation was organized September 4, 1901, with 14 charter members. Seven days later, on September 11, ground was broken for a Church building and eight months later on May 18, 1902, the new Church was dedicated. The sermon was preached by Rev. I. N. Peightel, former Pastor of the Yellow Creek Charge (and therefore a former Pastor of both St. Luke's and Trinity).

A Choir led by Professor B. C. Miller consisted of the following: Nellie Hale, Minnie Kay, Kate McGinley, Annie Braten, Billie Edmonson, John Lowery, Lawrence Miller, Alice Hall, Mae Cartwright and Hallie Cartwright. Professor Miller was also Superintendent of a thriving Sunday School.

Even before organization an amount of \$750.00 had been either collected or subscribed to for the new Church and within a year it was debt free.

The little town of Hopewell was nearly swept away by fire on Thanksgiving morn, 1931 and again by flood in 1936, but St. John's upon

the hill survived and remains a beacon light of Christ in this little country town beside the river.

In 1902 the Orbisonia Charge was detached, leaving a three point Charge now of St. Luke's (68 members), St. John's (33 members) and Trinity (111 members).

In 1903 Rev. Thompson was elected to the Presidency of Juniata Classis but moved soon thereafter from the area to become Pastor of Trinity Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania. About a year later he married Trinity's organist, Miss Amy P. Stoler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Stoler, on June 22, 1904.

\* \* \*

At this point, the Parsonage in Saxton was built beside Trinity Church. During the vacancy following the departure of Rev. Thompson, steps were taken by the congregation to build a Parsonage and the house was completed August 15, 1904, at a total cost of \$2339.

The Mite Society was asked to furnish a stove for the kitchen, which they did, and from that time on the Mite Society took over the responsibility for the care of the Parsonage which they have done very successfully ever since.

Electric lights were installed for the first time in 1904 in both the Church and Parsonage.

At this point, St. Luke's and Trinity Church united on July 16, 1904. When St. Luke's congregation was disbanded at its 60th Anniversary, Rev. A. C. Whitmer, a former Pastor, preached the sermon.



REV. CHARLES F. ALTHOUSE  
May 1904-December 1907

Occasionally services were continued at St. Luke's by direction of the Classis "as long as interest is manifested" — until September 15, 1905.

60 members of St. Luke's united with Trinity's 111 making a total of 171 at the start. Trinity's Sunday School membership rose now from 220 to 332. D. M. Stoler was Superintendent, Miss Emma Little was Secretary and officers and teachers numbered 23. Average attendance in 1904 was 252 — exceeded by only one other Sunday School in Juniata Classis — Trinity, Altoona.

A Parish newsletter "Trinity Church Tidings" made its first appearance in January, 1905.

Membership at the close of this Pastorate was for Trinity 230 and for St. John's 33. Following is a list of members of Trinity Church after the union with St. Luke's congregation in the Valley:

Agnes C. Althouse  
 Daniel Batzel  
 Edith Batzel  
 Mrs. Chas. Livingood  
 Matilda Boller  
 Emma Brightbill  
 Charlotte Clark  
 Mary Coy  
 Howard J. Dickenson  
 Catherine Dickenson  
 John E. Dickenson  
 Maggie Dickenson  
 May Dickenson  
 Eva Dickenson  
 Mrs. Donelson  
 Harry Eichelberger  
 Anna M. Elder  
 Mary Elder  
 Charles Elder  
 Mary C. Elder  
 Jacob Elder  
 Emma Elder  
 Zelia Elder  
 Martha Entrekin  
 Margaret Entrekin  
 Daniel Entrekin  
 John S. Enyeart  
 Mary Enyeart  
 Stella Enyeart  
 Stanley Enyeart  
 Jane Enyeart  
 Wm. S Enyeart  
 Anna Enyeart  
 George Enyeart  
 Daniel Enyeart  
 Alice Enyeart  
 Maria Enyeart  
 Mrs. Margaret Figard  
 Rosa Fink  
 Roxie Fink  
 Wesley Fink  
 Elizabeth Fluke  
 Anna Fluke  
 Gertrude Fluke  
 Barbara Foreman  
 Lucy Gibbon

Alice Harvey  
 Harry Harvey  
 Levi S. Hawn  
 Mrs. Mary Hawn  
 Atley Hawn  
 Lucy Hinish  
 Broce Hooper  
 Mary Hooper  
 Mrs. Houp  
 J. Wesley Huff  
 Martha Huff  
 Ada Huff  
 Lavina Kopenhagen  
 Lucy Kopenhagen  
 Jane Kensinger  
 Isaac K. Little  
 Mary Ann Little  
 Emma Little  
 Silas Little  
 Kate Little  
 Mary C. Little  
 Robert Little  
 Elizabeth Little  
 Lydia Livingstone  
 Franklin Livingstone  
 Gertrude Livingstone  
 Oliver Lloyd  
 Mrs. Rebecca Lloyd  
 Charles O. Miller  
 Anna Miller  
 Alice E. Morgan  
 John F. Parks  
 Mrs. Emma Parks  
 Nora Parks  
 Lavilla Perrin  
 H. H Poole  
 Grace Putt  
 Alexander Reed  
 Horace Reed  
 Susan Reed  
 David Reinard  
 Margaret Reinard  
 Daniel W. Rhodes  
 Ella Rhodes  
 Alta Rhodes  
 Jacob Rhodes

Elizabeth Rhodes  
 Laura Rhodes  
 Kathryn Rhodes  
 Anna Reynolds  
 James Rhodes  
 Anna Rhodes  
 Milton Rhodes  
 Leah Rhodes  
 Maggie Rhodes  
 Edna Rhodes  
 Elizabeth Rhodes  
 Kate Ross  
 Rebecca Shearer  
 Grace Shearer  
 Mary A. Shearer  
 Jane Showalter  
 Mary Smith  
 Tobias Snyder  
 Louise Snyder  
 Harry B. Snyder  
 Caroline Stapleton  
 Edward Stapleton  
 Chalmers Stapleton  
 Sophia Stapleton  
 Bessie Stapleton  
 Mary Stapleton  
 Blanche Stapleton  
 Sophia Stapleton  
 Calvin Steele  
 Carrie Steele  
 David Steele  
 Harry M. Steele  
 Barbara Steele  
 George Steele  
 Estella Steele  
 Ella Steele  
 Levi Steele  
 Jane Steele  
 Fanny Steele  
 Mary M. Steele  
 Oliver E. Steele  
 Minnie Steele  
 Thomas Steele  
 Barbara Steele  
 Samuel F. Steele  
 James Steele



Margaret Steele  
 Matilda Steele  
 John Steele  
 Warren Steele  
 David M. Stoler  
 Margaret A. Stoler  
 Gertrude Stoler  
 Ross Stoler  
 Jacob Stoler  
 Margaret N. Stoler  
 Florence Stoler  
 Evelyn Stoler  
 J. Howard Stoler  
 Elsie Stoler  
 Samuel B. Stoler  
 Mary P. Stoler  
 May Stoler  
 Leila Stoler  
 Matilda Stoler  
 Sarah Stoler  
 Tobias Stoler  
 Nancy Stoler  
 Lizzie Stoler  
 LeGuarde Stoler  
 Martin Stoler  
 Elizabeth Stoler  
 Enoch B. Sullivan  
 Maria Sullivan  
 Mary Sullivan  
 Jesse Sweet  
 Alma Sweet  
 Jacob Tate  
 Francis Tate  
 Anna Tate  
 Charlotte White  
 Ethel White  
 George Troutman  
 Lydia Troutman  
 Nora Whitfield  
 Howard Williams  
 Gertrude Williams  
 Jacob Zook  
 Lizzie Zook

The following persons  
 were added to the roll  
 during the pastorate of  
 Rev. Charles A. Althouse:

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Ed. H. Gorsuch  
 Fannie Laher  
 Eleanor Little  
 Ellen Parks  
 Chester Shultz  
 Flora Shultz  
 Frederick R. Snider  
 Emma Snyder  
 Laura Babst  
 William Clapper  
 Edith Clapper  
 Jeremiah Coy  
 Mary B. Donelson  
 Edith A. Edwards  
 Frank E. Steele  
 Lizzie Williams  
 Sarah A. Coy  
 Amy E. Elder  
 Catherine Moore  
 Delilah Moore  
 Ida P. Steele  
 Elsie M. Troutman  
 Geraldine A. Troutman  
 John E. Weaver  
 Zeffa S. Weaver  
 Elizabeth Enyeart  
 Amy Mountain  
 Jacob Fluke  
 Minnie Fluke  
 H. Clair Myerley  
 L. Marguerite Elder  
 Ora L. Fink  
 Anna Huff  
 Clara Belle Huff  
 David J. Jones  
 Laura Jones  
 Leslie D. Jones  
 Elsie L. Jones  
 Harvey E. Krieger  
 Bertha Krieger

Lillian Morningstar  
 Irvin Quarry  
 Alice Quarry  
 Oneida Smith  
 Anthony Russell  
 Mary Russell  
 M. Allen Steele  
 Edmund Treese  
 Flora Treese  
 Clyde A. Worthing  
 Hulda Worthing  
 Elizabeth Furgeson  
 Margaret Harwood  
 Harriett Jones  
 Wm. H. Mosser  
 Clarence E. Huff  
 Edith V. Bridentine  
 James H. Coy  
 Earl M. Cunningham  
 Maria A. Elder  
 Olive D. Elder  
 Ethel B. Enyeart  
 Zella G. Fink  
 Mary A. Eichelberger  
 Frances B. Hawn  
 Walter H. Hawn  
 George R. Huff  
 Frank Moore  
 George Moore  
 John Moore  
 Rebecca Moore  
 Walter Quiggle  
 J. Paul Rhodes  
 Ralph R. Rhodes  
 Robert C. Rhodes  
 Sadie A. Showalter  
 Gertrude E. Steele  
 M. Blanche Steele  
 Martha M. Steele  
 A. Marguerite Stoler  
 Daniel M. Stoler  
 George W. Stoler  
 Martha E. Sullivan  
 Ralph E. Weaver  
 Emma Hollingshead

Here in 1908, Trinity Church was entirely remodeled. Its original appearance of narrow Gothic style has been partially obliterated by the addition of the west side extension — our present Chancel area and former Choir room (now occupied by the organ pipes) — and the larger addition of the Sunday School part to the rear of the original structure (and to the left of the present Sanctuary).

The total cost, including heating plant and new furnishings was \$6600 — all of which was subscribed for on the day of dedication, February 27, 1909. The building committee was composed of I. K. Little, J. Wesley Huff and D. M. Stoler. During the remodeling, the congregation worshipped in the Presbyterian Church (now the Masood Funeral Chapel).



**REV. PAUL B. RUPP**  
May 1908-January 1911

A new organization, The United Church Workers Society, a cultural and social group, was organized in 1909 with 36 charter members and was of real benefit for several years to the youth of the Church. Rev. Rupp showed great interest in the Adult Bible Classes and became a promoter of the Adult Bible Class idea among Sunday Schools of Juniata Classis.

In 1909 St. John's, Hopewell, organized a Christian Endeavor Society with 21 members. Robert Harclerode was appointed first Secretary. St. John's Sunday School had now grown to 56. Trinity's Church membership was 202, St. John's membership was now 32.

In 1910 Juniata Classis met in Trinity Church, now remodeled and brand new for the occasion.

\* \* \*

Closer grading of the Sunday School Classes was initiated now that individual Sunday School rooms had been built. The record says that the Sunday School now "increased in numbers and all-around efficiency."



**REV. ARTHUR C. OHL**  
Sept. 1911-Dec. 1914

Here occurred the 25th Anniversary of Trinity Church in October, 1912 and the first historical sketch of the Church was published.

At the Confirmation and Baptismal Services held February 4, 1912, twenty-four persons were confirmed, among whom was Mrs. Bertha Hamilton, then 83 years of age. Nearly three years later, December 6, 1914, forty-eight persons were received into membership by confirmation. Many of these had made their decision during a revival in the community conducted by a visiting Evangelist named Stough and entered into by all the Churches.

A Boy Scout Troop was organized and Rev. Ohl became the first Scoutmaster. He was later succeeded by V. N. Herbst, who conducted the first Boy Scout Band of Saxton. This band was invited to play in the parade for Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh's

Inauguration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1912. Here, follows the Congregational Report (in brief) for the 25th Anniversary Year of 1912:

## OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUPERINTENDENT .....	David M. Stoler
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT .....	Professor H. D. Metzger
SECRETARY .....	J. Wesley Huff
ASSISTANT SECRETARY .....	Mrs. Elizabeth Stoler
TREASURER .....	Silas H. Little
LIBRARIANS .....	L. Blanche Smith and Erma Stinson
CRADLE ROLL SUPERINTENDENT .....	Miss L. Emma Little
HOME DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT .....	Mrs. Elizabeth Stoler

## TEACHERS OF THE SCHOOL

Class No. 1—Zanna Stoler	Class No. 10—Mrs. D. W. Rhodes
Class No. 2—Frances Stoler	Class No. 11—H. M. Steele
Class No. 3—Mrs. J. M. Fink	Class No. 12—S. B. Stoler
Class No. 4—Gertrude Livingstone	Class No. 13—Mrs. George Little
Class No. 5—L. Emma Little	Class No. 14—Margaret Steele
Class No. 6—Odessa Bolter	Class No. 15—D. W. Rhodes
Class No. 7—Mrs. Chester A. Shultz	Class No. 16—Thomas Wilson
Class No. 8—Mrs. D. T. Jones	Class No. 18—Professor H. D. Metzger
Class No. 9—Mary Shearer	Class No. 19—James Rhodes

## MITE SOCIETY

<i>President</i> , Mrs. George Smith	<i>Secretary</i> , Mrs. J. M. Fink
<i>Vice President</i> , Mrs. Lucy Gibboney	<i>Treasurer</i> , Mrs. S. B. Stoler

## UNITED WORKERS

<i>President</i> , L. Emma Little	<i>Treasurer</i> , Gertrude Livingstone
<i>Secretary</i> , May Stoler	

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

<i>President</i> , Zanna Stoler	<i>Secretary</i> , Mrs. Bernard Berkstresser
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## JUNIOR SOCIETY

<i>Superintendent</i> , Mrs. Eleanor Little	<i>Asst. Supt.</i> , Miss L. Emma Little
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## LADIES' SEWING CIRCLE

<i>President</i> , Mrs. Elizabeth Stoler	<i>Treasurer</i> , Mrs. Arthur C. Ohl
<i>Secretary</i> , Mrs. William H. Kay	

## TRINITY CHOIR

HON. J. WESLEY HUFF, *Chorister*  
FLORENCE STOLER, *Organist*

Mae Stoler	Evelyn Stoler	Blanche Smith	Mrs. A. C. Ohl
George R. Huff	Frances Stoler	Bernard Berkstresser	Mrs. H. E. Seville
Daniel Stoler	Beulah Quiggle	George Stoler	Maria Enyeart
Robert Huff	R. Ellia Smith	Mrs. George Little	Charles E. Williams

## CONSISTORY AND TRUSTEES

<i>Elders</i>	<i>Deacons</i>
D. M. STOLER	THOMAS WILSON
JAMES RHODES	CHESTER A. SHULTZ
DANIEL W. RHODES	JOHN MOORE
S. H. LITTLE	J. WESLEY HUFF

MRS. C. A. SHULTZ, *Financial Secretary*  
Membership, 1912—215  
Communicants, 1912—198  
Unconfirmed, 1912— 65  
Sunday School Enrollment—310



REV. J. F. REIMERS  
May 1915-April 1916

Here occurred the shortest Pastorate in Trinity's History — one year. "The burdens of World War I lay heavy upon the hearts of Pastor and people," the record says.

However, the record also states that "improvements were made in the Church and the Spiritual life of the members deepened".

Trinity's Membership 259

St. John's Membership 34.

\* \* \*

The basement under the Sunday School rooms was now developed, and the interior of the Church redecorated.



REV. GEORGE A. BAER  
May 1916-June 1921

In 1917, a large number of members were added to the congregation. H. C. Mierley was Sunday School Superintendent and Miss Frances Stoler was Superintendent of the Children's Department.

In 1918 Ed Gorsuch became Sunday School Superintendent. In 1919 a group of 39 were received into Church membership.

Following is a list of members who served in World War I:

David Ritchey  
George Stoler  
Frank Moore  
Robert Rhodes  
Ross F. Shoemaker  
Samuel Ritchey  
Miles Stone  
C. R. Dixon

Arlie Jones  
Samuel B. Stoler  
Charles Williams  
Charles Steele  
Herman Hamm  
William G. Fluke  
J. W. Streepy  
George Coy

Trinity's Membership 271

St. John's Membership 25

During the seven months' vacancy after Rev. Baer's resignation, Mr. Hugh Smith, "a devout Bible Student and Christian Gentleman" and a member of Trinity was among those who supplied the Church.

\* \* \*



Rev. Lawrence Miller was, as stated before, a son of Professor Benjamin Miller, one of the founders of our St. John's Church in Hopewell. Before coming to Saxton, Rev. Miller had served Churches in Loysburg and Yellow Creek.

During this Pastorate a community Daily Vacation Bible School was started and very successfully carried on interdenominationally by the Sunday Schools of Saxton.

Both Rev. and Mrs. Miller were talented musicians and during their stay in Saxton, Trinity's Junior Choir was organized.

Charter members were the following: Sarah Gogley Palmer, Edna Parks (in World War II, Lt. Col. Edna Parks, U. S. Army Nurses Corp.), Hannah Jones (later of Carlisle), Elizabeth Williams Eichelberger, Trinity Organist, Helen Smouse, Dorothy Graffious Darr, Caroline Graziotte, Edna Baughman, Margaret Stoler Stein, Norma Baker, Hattie Cunningham Bradley, Ruth Huff Boyer, Dorothy Parks, Charlotte Enyeart Eichelberger, Martha Enyeart Warfield, Dorothy Steele Rees, Edna Williams Albright, Marcella Lloyd Robinson, Martha Huff, Margaret Cunningham Bradley, Helen Colledge and Mary Huff.

A building fund and a Pipe Organ fund were established in 1923. J. Homer Stoler was treasurer of the Organ fund. The Building fund was headed by Oliver Lloyd.

A Mission Band was started in 1925 and for a time had an enrollment of 38, standing first among the Mission Bands of Juniata Classis.

A business depression hit Saxton in 1922, but the work of Trinity Church continued to progress. The Sunday School reached an enrollment of 384 with 44 in the Home Department. Robert E. Huff was Superintendent. Trinity's Membership 256 St. John's Membership 24

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During the change of Pastors here, the Parish was vacant the shortest length of time in Trinity's history — one week.

Rev. Gobrecht excelled in Youth work and the Young People's organization climbed to a membership of 42.

Here the new pipe organ was purchased and installed.

The Church steeple was changed for lightning and wind had severely damaged the original. A new roof was also placed on the Church and a new heating plant was placed in the Parsonage.

Rev. Gobrecht became a community leader in the field of sports and for a time coached basketball, baseball and football in the Saxton-Liberty High School.



**REV. L. C. T. MILLER**  
Autumn 1921-June 1925



**REV. LOY C. GOBRECHT**  
June 1925-April 1929

An excellent Choir had come into being at Trinity under the leadership of Charles E. Williams, with Miss Edna Parks, Organist and Mrs. Daniel Stoler, Assistant Organist. Following is an early list of members of this Choir: Dorothy Parks, Ruth Huff, Charlotte Enyeart, Dorothy Graffious, Helen Mierly, Mary Huff, Leah McFarland, Alma Parks, Mrs. J. Moore, Mrs. L. C. Gobrecht, C. E. Huff, R. H. Long, R. E. Steele, Martha Hickes, Elizabeth Williams, Martha Williams, Marcella Lloyd, Helena Mierley, Martha Enyeart, Gladys Abbott, Robert E. Huff, J. F. Livingstone, F. E. Steele, B. B. Stake, E. W. Graffious.

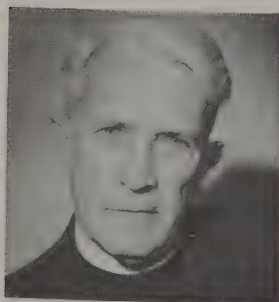
Trinity's Church Membership - 250

St. John's Membership - 23

Trinity Sunday School - 287

\* \* \*

Here occurred the longest Pastorate in Trinity's History — 15 years. Rev. Greenawalt, the record says, "excelled in evangelistic work and was much in demand throughout Juniata Classis".



REV. N. S. GREENAWALT  
June 1929-November 1944

Trinity's Sunday School enrollment climbed to 387 in 1933 with an average attendance that year of 220.

In the early "30's" Trinity Church Membership fell off somewhat due to the economic depression, but in 1938 it had recaptured its former status and reached 290 that year.

During this Pastorate the Evangelical and Reformed Church came into being on June 26, 1934. Central Pennsylvania Synod was organized following the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the United States. Rev. Ralph J. Harrity was Chairman of the Convening Committee that called together in Faith Church, State College, the ministers and elders of Churches of the uniting denominations in Bedford, Blair, Cambria (except Johnstown), Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Elk, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Jefferson, Lycoming, Mifflin, Potter, Snyder, Tioga and Union Counties, which were the former Juniata and West Susquehanna Classes and the Evangelical congregation in Williamsport. Rev. Charles D. Rockel was elected Central Pennsylvania Synod's first President.

Mr. Lee O. Worthing, a member of Trinity Church, and then a freshman at Ursinus College, was taken under care of Synod as a student for the ministry at this first meeting of Synod.

In 1937 the 50th Anniversary of Trinity was observed with special services and publication of a second historical booklet. Members of the consistory that year were the following:

Bruce Hooper, C. E. Williams, R. M. Breneman, Stephen McCahan, Robert Steele, O. W. Lloyd, C. M. Shultz, George W. Troutman, Henry A. Schleuter, Glenn Treece, J. E. Cornely, Robert E. Huff.

The Sunday School Staff at the time of the 50th Anniversary in 1937 was composed of the following:

Superintendent, Robert E. Huff; First Assistant Superintendent, Robert Steele; Second Assistant Superintendent, J. E. Cornely; Secretary, Robert Williams; Assistant Secretary, Joe Cornely; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Flora Shultz; Treasurer, E. A. Ramsey; Pianist, Pauline Abbott; Assistant Pianist, Cassie Stoler; Librarian, William Davis; Assistant Librarian, Lee Worthing; Home Department Superintendent, Mrs. Mary Hooper; Cradle Roll Superintendent, Mrs. Marvin Hooper; Junior Department Superintendent, Mrs. Margaret Ritchey; Assistant Junior Department Superintendent, Mrs. George Moore; Primary Department Superintendent, Miss Emma Little; Assistant Primary Department Superintendent, Mrs. C. E. Williams; Intermediate Department Superintendent, Mrs. John Weaver; Senior Department Superintendent, E. A. Ramsey; Young People's Department Superintendent, Helen Clapper; Mission Superintendent, Mrs. C. W. Smith; Temperance, C. A. Shultz.

## TEACHERS

### *Class No.*

1. Miss Emma Little
2. Mrs. James Philips
3. Ruth Smith
4. Luella Williams
5. Emma Lou Fluke
- 6.
7. Pearl Tenley
8. Mrs. J. W. Streepy
9. Mrs. George Moore
10. Mrs. Gilbert Clapper
11. Mrs. John Weaver

### *Class No.*

12. Robert Steele
13. Bob Clapper
14. Helen Clapper
15. Stephen McCahan
16. C. W. Smith
17. Julia Ramsey
18. E. A. Ramsey
19. Mrs. Greenawalt
20. Wm. G. Fluke
21. Dan. F. Graham
22. Noah Boller

Extensive repairs and alterations were made to the Church in 1942, including renovation of the interior, painting and new carpet. The altar, pulpit, and lectern were renewed and a modern lighting system installed. Dedication services were held October 1, 2, and 4 that year with the Rev.

Loy Gobrecht, former Pastor, as Guest Speaker. The following gifts were presented:

1. Altar, Lectern and Pulpit, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin Fink, by the family.
2. Pulpit Chairs by the Mite Society.
3. The Cross, in memory of Isaac and Mary Ann Little, by Alvin and Emma Little.
4. Candelabra, in memory of Jacob C. and Margaret Stoler, by the family.
5. Candelabra by the J. Homer and Delia Stoler Family.
6. Pulpit and Lectern Bibles, in memory of Calvin and Carrie I. Steele by the Children.
7. Offering Plates by the Chelten and Ruth Smith family.
8. Altar, Pulpit and Lectern covers by the Jewel Workers Class.
9. Hardwood Paneling in the Chancel by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Huff.
10. Center Chandelier in the Sanctuary by the Good Samaritan Class and the Men's Bible Class of the Sunday School.
11. Baptismal Font by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lloyd.
12. Vestibule floor linoleum by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Williams.
13. Communion Set, in memory of Elizabeth (Elder) Stoler and George Stoler, by Dr. and Mrs. George Stoler.
14. Front Door of Church by the Samuel B. Stoler Family.
15. Wall lights by Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Moritz.

A Parish newsletter was sent out weekly during this Pastorate. Volunteer Sunday was set aside each November for volunteer pledging to the budget of the coming year.

Rev. Greenawalt married Miss Norma Myers in 1943 and she proved to be a great helpmate in the Church's work. Frequently, when the Pastor would be absent, Mrs. Greenawalt would conduct the service and preach the sermon.

Trinity's Membership - 261

St. John's Membership - 23.



During a vacancy of several months before Dr. Thompson arrived the second time, the Parsonage was completely remodeled. Modern archways replaced the doors between the rooms, floors were sanded and waxed, new lights installed, and the kitchen modernized with a new electric stove and a new sink.

Mrs. Amy Stoler Thompson, more than a year before had been laid to rest in Fockler's Cemetery. The Pastor and his brother, Warren R. Thompson, occupied the Parsonage.

Trinity maintained its usual record of paying in full its apportionment and one year 87% of the membership pledged support of the budget on Volunteer Sunday in November.



REV. ARTHUR C. THOMPSON  
May 1945-October 1949

Licentiate Lee Worthing, a son of Trinity Church, was ordained to the Christian Ministry here in his home Church on December 10, 1945, by Rev. Ralph J. Harrity, Rev. Earl Dobbs and Rev. Arthur Thompson. Rev. Worthing had graduated from Ursinus College and Eastern Theological Seminary and took up work in his first Pastorate at our Church in Alexandria.

Returning Servicemen of the Church from World War II were entertained at a special Homecoming Dinner shortly after V-J Day in 1945 by Robert E. Huff, then Superintendent of the Sunday School. A "GI" class was organized with over 50 members on December 11, 1945. Mr. Huff was the first teacher.

A new Church Constitution was adopted on May 4, 1947.

A heavy storm in March 1947 blew down the chimney of the Church which crashed through the roof and damaged the ceiling. When repairs were made, a concrete pavement was added completely around the Church property. Repairs and improvements cost nearly \$6,000.

A County District Board of Christian Education was organized and Rev. Thompson served as first President. Officers of District I, Bedford County Sunday Schools, Superintendents of Schools within the District and Pastors of the Churches of Saxton and vicinity composed the Board. This organization conducted a series of Leadership Training Schools and sponsored annual Daily Vacation Bible Schools each summer in Saxton.

Saxton voted "dry" at the Primary Election in September, 1947, the cause having been championed by the Ministerial Association. Voting was as follows: Saxton Borough, liquor (191 For - 312 against); Beer (205 For - and 282 against). In Liberty Township, liquor (127 For and 277 against).

The 60th Anniversary of Trinity Church was observed in 1947 during the week of October 26 - November 2.

In connection with the Anniversary services at that time a special Service was held under the direction of Dr. Charles Barton, former Major, Army Dental Corps., when the Service Banner of Trinity was demobilized and placed in a protecting frame under glass. Rev. Loy Gobrecht, former Pastor and an Army Chaplain during World War II, delivered the sermon. Following are the 73 names of those from Trinity who served in World War II:

Donald Abbott	John Cunningham	Richard Rhodes
Charles Allison	Robert Cunningham	Bill Ritchey
Roy Allison	William Cunningham	Bob Ritchey
John Allison	Jack Davis	Walter Robinson
Charles Barton	William Davis	Anthony Scarcia
Samuel Baughman	Levi Dilling	Walford Sellers
Lewis Bridenbaugh	Howard Dorman	Cecil Smith
George Browne	Robert Dorman	Glenn Smith
Kie A. Brown, Jr.	George Eichelberger	Graffious Smith
Jack Brumbaugh	Fred Eisenhuth	Mack Stoler
Emerson Carbaugh	Kenneth Elder	Bruce Stoler
Homer Carbaugh	James Fluke	Allen Stuby
John Cartright	Stoler Fluke	Paul Stuby
Fred Clapper	Al Freney	Herbert Treece
Lloyd Clapper	Kenneth Graffious	Robert Treece
Robert Clapper	LeRoy Graziotti	Allen Troutman
Lee Clark	Robert Huff, Jr.	Wolfgang Vogel
Thomas Clark	Curtis Kelley	Harry Weaverling
Charles Cornely	Ernest Koch, Jr.	John Wertman
John Cornely	George Livingstone	Robert Williams
William Cornely	Robert Livingstone	Alvin Worthing
George Coy	Floyd Mellott	Paul Hoffman, Jr.
James Coy	Russell Palmer, Jr.	Gorden Reed
Norman Cornely	Edna Parks	
Eugene Carberry	Harry Ramsey	

On November 23 of that same year (1947) a military funeral was held for Kie A. Brown, Jr., who had been wounded in the "Battle of the Bulge" and died in a U. S. Army Hospital in Belgium, January 19, 1945. Dr. Charles Barton, then head of the V.F.W. in Saxton, was in charge of this service and Rev. Loy C. Gobrecht preached the sermon. More than 100 servicemen were in the funeral procession and interment took place in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Saxton.

The Sunday School Staff and Consistory members at the time of the 60th Anniversary follow:

Superintendent, Robert E. Huff; Assistant Superintendent, Robert E. Steele; Assistant Superintendent, Charles E. Williams; Recording Secretary, Frank E. Steele; Assistant Recording Secretary, David Shaal; Superintendent Junior Department, Mrs. George Moore; Superintendent Intermediate Department, Mrs. Teresa Hatfield; Superintendent Senior Department, Miss Helen Clapper; Superintendent Adult Dept., Mrs.

Claudia Streepy; Superintendent Missions, Alta Schleuter; Superintendent Temperance, Mrs. Wm. Clapper; Superintendent Cradle Roll, Mrs. Gilbert Clapper; Superintendent Beginners' Department, Mrs. Ida Ramsey; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Flora Shultz; Financial Secretary, G. Frank Steele; Treasurer, Kie Brown; Superintendent Primary Department, Mrs. Chas. E. Williams; Pianists, Miss Beverly Williams, Miss Dotty Baker, Miss Leonore Shaal; Teachers and Substitutes: Beginners 1, Mrs. Harry Ramsey; Primary 2, Mrs. C. E. Williams; Junior 4, 5, Mrs. George Moore; Intermediate 6, Mrs. John Weaver; 7, Robert E. Steele; 8, Stephen McCahan; Senior 9, Mrs. Teresa Hatfield; 10, Miss Helen Clapper; 11, Carl A. Fluke; Adult 12, Mrs. Robert Elder; 13, Mrs. Gertrude Shaal; 14, William G. Fluke, Porter Isenberg; 15, J. E. Cornely; 16, Robert E. Huff.

The average attendance for 1947 was 115.

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A Women's Guild was organized in Trinity Church with 28 charter members in December, 1947, and the first Officers were: Mrs. David Ritchey, President; Mrs. Hulda Wilkins, Vice President; Miss Alma Parks, Secretary; and Mrs. George Eichelberger, Treasurer.

Mrs. Melissa J. Thompson, wife of Albert Thompson, and Mother of Rev. Arthur C. and Warren R. Thompson passed away in Saxton on May 29, 1949. She was almost 99 years of age, the oldest person then in Bedford County and the oldest minister's widow in the Reformed Church. Interment took place in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where Rev. W. Sherman Kerschner preached the funeral sermon in Trinity Reformed Church there. Prior to this, Rev. E. S. Haus conducted a Funeral Service in Saxton in Huff's Memorial Chapel. While living in Saxton, Mrs. Thompson made her home with Mrs. Fleda Eicher.

In 1949 Dr. Thompson completed 50 years in the Ministry and this long term of Christian Service was recognized in Trinity Church in Saxton, October 23, 1949. Rev. Paul Dilling, President of the Broad Top Area Ministerium, brought greetings and Rev. W. S. Kerschner, Secretary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, preached the sermon entitled, "The Face of The Prophet". At the evening service, Rev. Thomas D. Garner, Vice President of Central Pennsylvania Synod delivered the sermon. Among the many tributes was a poem composed and read by Jesse Cornely. Dr. Thompson resigned August 1, 1949, in order to retire, but was elected Pastor Emeritus and continued as stated Supply for another year.

Trinity's Membership - 237

St. John's Membership - 33

Rev. Burns, who now became Pastor, excelled, the record states, in youth work. His interest in sports contributed much to the organization in Saxton of a Softball League among the Churches.



**REV. T. M. BURNS, JR.**  
Nov. 1950-Sept. 1952

An alternating system for election of consistorymen was inaugurated during his Pastorate in which an Elder and a Deacon cannot serve two consecutive terms without a year's "rest" in between.

A new roof was put on the Parsonage in 1951. The upstairs of the garage was renovated in 1951 and made into a doughnut factory for the Mite Society and an oil conversion unit was placed in the Church furnace.

Trinity's Membership - 203

St. John's Membership - 25

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Rev. Seldomridge, who came now, had been a Chaplain with the U. S. Navy during World War II.

A Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service was instituted as was also an Easter Morning Breakfast following an early Easter Morn Communion Service.



**REV. A. L. SELDOMRIDGE**  
Nov. 1952-January 1955

In 1954, on June 30th, the Mite Society observed its 60th Anniversary and presented the Church with a check to pay for the painting of the inside of the Church in connection with improvements made for the Saxton-Liberty Centennial. The Mite Society, along with Mrs. George Eichelberger, gave the Church a new RCA tape recorder.

Trinity's Membership - 139

St. John's Membership - 32



During a ten month vacancy following Rev. Seldomridge's departure, Dr. Thompson, still living in Saxton in retirement, supplied the Charge.

In November 1955 Licentiate LaMar Bender was secured as Pastor to be on the field during week-ends at a salary of \$3,000.00 per annum. Upon his graduation in June 1956 he was elected regular Pastor.

Dr. Thompson and his brother Warren, continued to live in Saxton on Church Street, until December 1955 when the Thompson's sold their Saxton home. Warren moved to Sebring, Florida and Dr. Thompson moved to Claremont, California.

During Rev. Bender's Pastorate, the large pipe organ was moved from the center of the Chancel to the Choir room on the side. The decorative pipes were removed and replaced by an Altar and a Good Shepherd stained glass window, a gift of the Robert Brenneman Family. The organ was entirely renovated and rebuilt.

The Social Room and the kitchen underneath the Sunday School rooms were beautifully remodeled, the kitchen modernized with roomy built-in cupboards, and new double sinks and an electric and gas stove installed.

The grounds were landscaped in front of the Church.

During the vacancy extending over a year following Rev. Bender's departure, Dr. Edgar Skillington, retired Methodist Minister living in the area, supplied the Charge.

Trinity's Membership - 192

St. John's Membership - 27

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*Activities During the Present Pastorate Include the Following:*

Indebtedness of \$1200 at start of 1960 remaining from basement improvement paid off in full during 1960.

Pew Communion initiated 1961.

Couples' Club organized 1961.

Week of Special Evangelistic Services 1961.

Monthly Parish Newsletter re-instituted.

Church Library started.

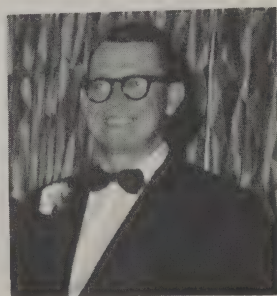
New 16mm Bell and Howell projector for audio visual aids purchased.

World Service benevolent giving at an all-time high.

Use of Church and Home Sunday School materials in all but adult Bible Classes established.



REV. LAMAR BENDER  
November 1955-1959



REV. HOMER F. YEARICK  
Aug. 1960-Present 1962

Folding Doors placed on all Sunday School rooms 1962.

Valentine Party for Senior Members 1962.

Promotion of cooperative community youth activities in both Saxton and Hopewell.

Palms and candelabra placed in Sanctuary 1962.

Family Day observance - newly organized Sunday School Orchestra played — June, 1962.

Special Maundy Thursday Communion Service initiated during Holy Week — Pastor and 12 deacons represent activities of Christ and the 12 disciples at the first Lord's Supper — 4 elders serve the Holy Communion to the congregation.

Live Christmas Pageant initiated December 1961 — members of both Churches stand the parts in pantomime along with live animals in a Manger Scene beside the Church.

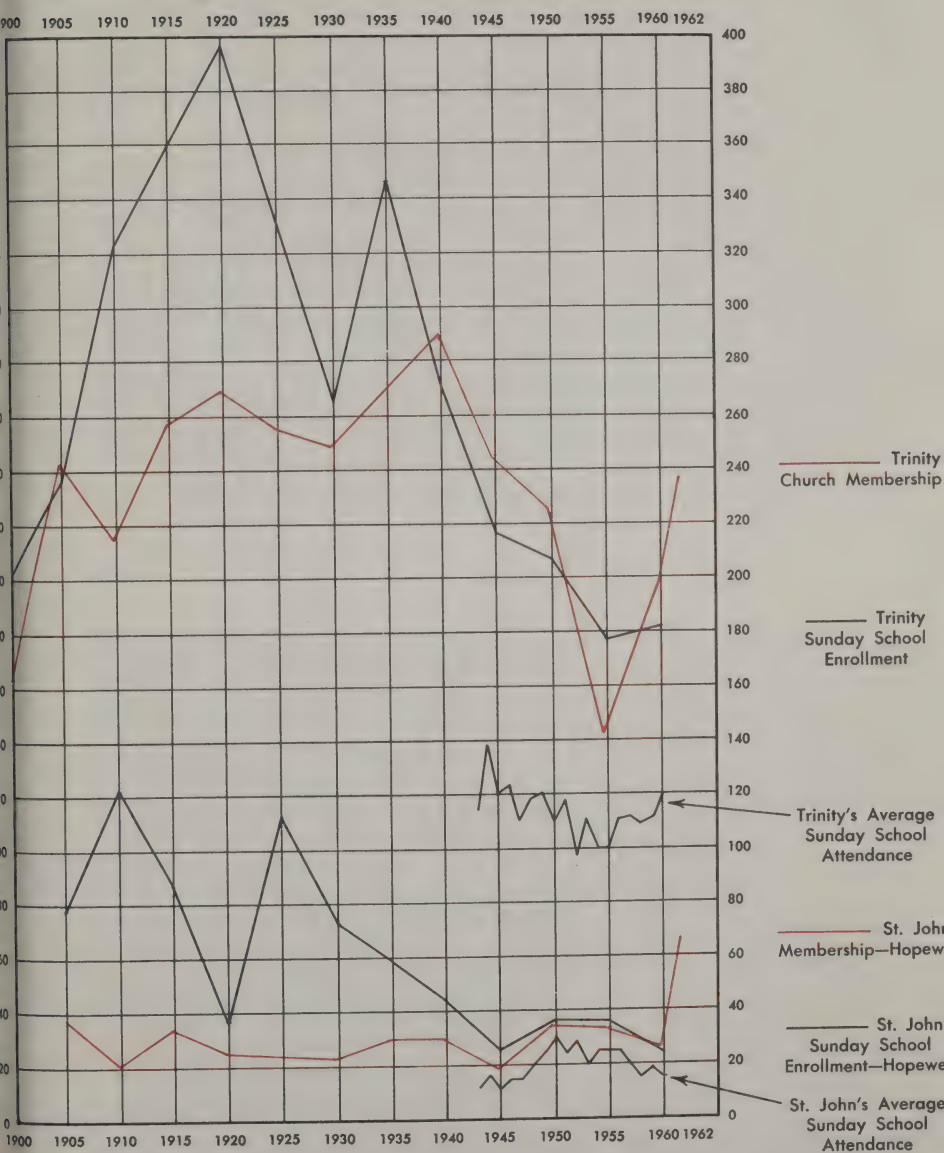
75th Anniversary observance - 1962.

Trinity's Membership - 237

St. John's Membership - 63



# Membership and Attendance Record Since 1900



*Pictorial Record of the Present*





**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF, 1962 - Superintendent Dr. C. C. Barton**



**CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL**  
**Teachers: Mrs. Robert Williams, Mrs. Leah Graffious, Mrs. C. E. Williams, Sr.,**  
**Mrs. Donnie Brumbaugh and Mrs. Mae Clapper.**



**JUNIOR DEPARTMENT - Teacher, Ralph Isett**



**JUNIOR HIGH CLASS - Teacher, Pat Smith**





**SENIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT - Teachers, Frances Cullen, James Whitfield**



**BUSY BEE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - Teacher, Teresa Hatfield**



**ADULT WOMEN'S CLASS - Teacher, Alma Parks**



**ADULT MEN'S CLASS - Teacher, Jess Cornely**





**"G. I." CLASS - Teacher, Charles E. Williams, Sr.**



**CHURCH CONSISTORY - 1962**



**MITE SOCIETY - 1962**



**WOMEN'S GUILD - 1962**

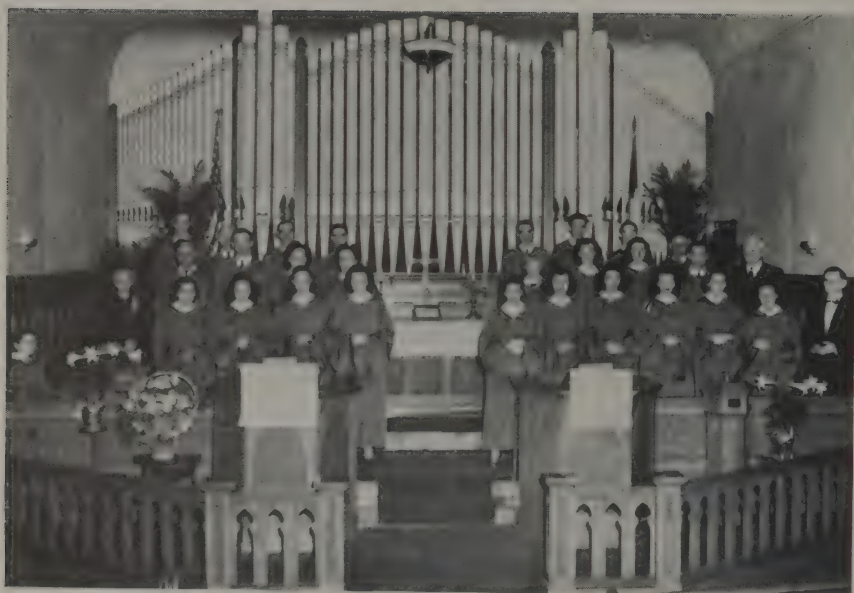




**JUNIOR CHOIR - 1962 — Directors, Mrs. Leah Graffious, Mrs. Edna Stoler**



**EASTER MORNING SERVICE - 1962**



THE CHANCEL - EASTER, 1947

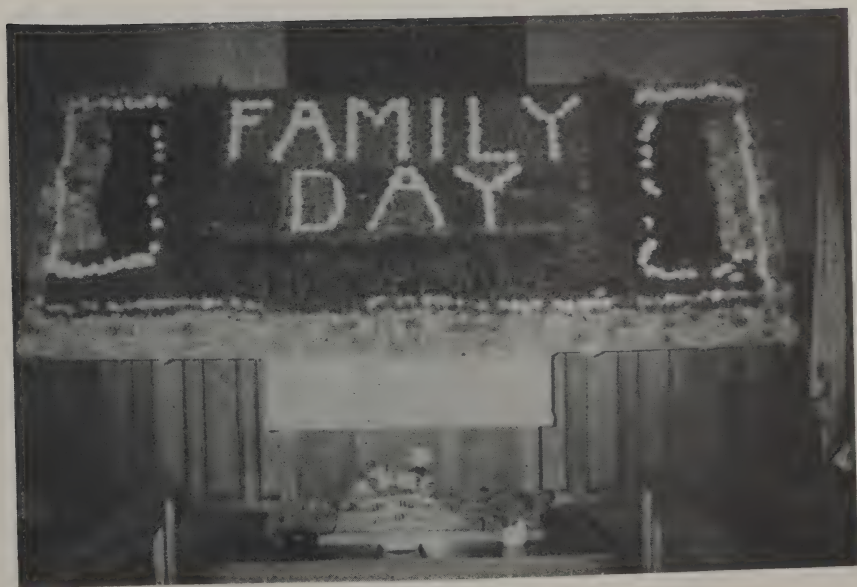


THE CHANCEL - EASTER, 1962





**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**



**FAMILY DAY**  
 (Combining Children's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day) — 1962



**MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE - HOLY WEEK - 1962**



**LIVE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER, 1961**

75th Anniversary  
HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 7-14, 1962

SUNDAY

October 7 Morning.....World-Wide Communion Service  
Evening.....The Rev. Lee O. Worthing

MONDAY

October 8 .....The Rev. LaMar Bender

TUESDAY

October 9 .....The Rev. Loy C. Gobrecht

WEDNESDAY

October 10 .....The Rev. Edgar Skillington

THURSDAY

October 11 .....The Rev. Thomas Burns

FRIDAY

October 12 .....The Rev. Amos Seldomridge

SATURDAY

October 13 .....Homecoming Day

SUNDAY

October 14 Morning.....The Rev. Norman Greenawalt  
Evening.....The Rev. Dr. L. C. T. Miller

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TO ONE AND ALL

*a*

MOST CORDIAL WELCOME

*to the*

75th ANNIVERSARY

*and*

HOMECOMING SERVICES

PRINTERS





















